

5. *MUS MUSCULUS*.*Mus Musculus, Auctorum.*

Of this species, there are six specimens in Mr. Darwin's collection; two were found "living in the short grass, near the summit of the Island of Ascension, where the climate is temperate."—D. Two others were procured "on a small, stony, and arid island, near Porto Praya, the capital of St. Jago, in the Cape de Verde Islands,—climate very hot and dry. Excepting during the rainy season, which is of short duration, these little animals can never taste fresh water, nor does the island afford any succulent plant."—D. A specimen was also procured "on a grassy cliff, on East Falkland Island, at the distance of a mile from any habitation. It is singular that so delicate an animal should be able to subsist under the cold, and extremely humid climate, of the Falkland Islands, and on its unproductive soil."—D. These specimens are all of them rather less than full grown individuals of the same species procured in England; in other respects, they do not differ.

The sixth specimen, which is from Maldonado, is considerably less than British specimens of the common mouse, and is of a richer and brighter colour, the head is smaller, the muzzle shorter in proportion, whilst the tarsi are even longer than in a large specimen of *M. Musculus*. These points of dissimilarity induced me to believe it was a distinct species, and to apply to it the specific name of *brevirostris*.\* Upon re-examination, with the advantage of more experience, and consequently a better knowledge of the characters of these animals, I have changed my opinion. The teeth indicate that it is not an adult specimen, and agree perfectly with those of *M. Musculus*, both in form and size. "Common in the houses of the town of Maldonado, and its habits are similar to those of *Mus Musculus*."—D.

\* See Proceedings of the Zoological Society for February 14th, 1837, p. 19.

6. *MUS LONGICAUDATUS*.

PLATE XI.

*Mus longicaudatus*, *Bennett*, Proceedings of the Committee of Science and Correspondence of the Zoological Society of London for January, 1832, p. 2.

*M. pallidè flavescenti-fuscus; corpore subtùs albo, levitèr flavo lavato; pedibus albis; tarsis permagnis; caudâ perlongâ; auribus parvulis.*

DESCRIPTION.—Fur long and soft; general colour pale yellow-brown, the hairs of the ordinary fur being fulvous near the apex, and the longer hairs brown. On the sides of the body, cheeks, and external side of limbs, the fulvous hue prevails. The inner side of the limbs and the under parts of the body are white, but have an indistinct yellowish hue. All the hairs of the body are of a deep gray colour at the base. The ears are small, well clothed with hairs; those on the inner side are chiefly yellow; externally, on the fore part they are brown, and posteriorly whitish. The feet are of a flesh-colour, and furnished above with white hairs; the tarsi are but sparingly provided with minute hairs on the upper side, and are naked beneath: they are of unusually large size. The fore feet are of moderate\* size, and furnished with a very large carpal tubercle. The tail is very nearly double the length of the body, if the latter be measured in a straight line; it is of a brownish flesh-colour above, paler beneath, and sparingly furnished with minute bristly hairs; those on the upper surface being brown, and on the under side white. The hairs of the moustaches are long, of a black colour, and grayish at the apex.

|  | In. | Lines. |   | In. | Lines. |
|--|-----|--------|---|-----|--------|
| Length from nose to root of tail . . . | 3   | 9      | Length of tarsus (claws included) . . . | 1   | 1      |
| of tail . . . . .                      | 5   | 3      | of ear . . . . .                        | 0   | 4      |
| from nose to ear . . . . .             | 0   | 10½    |   |     |        |

Habitat, Chile.

\* As I shall have occasion to use the terms *moderate*, *long*, *short*, *large*, &c. it may be well to state that I take the common mouse, (*Mus Musculus*), as my standard of comparison. The ears, feet, tail, length of the fur, general proportions, &c. are in that animal what I term moderate.